

PATENT

IS-US000799



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Michihiko YONETSU

Serial No.: 10/042,145

Filed: January 11, 2002

For: COMBINATION WEIGHING  
APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 2841

Examiner: Randy W. Gibson

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH CERTIFICATION**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the attached references to the Examiner's attention and requests that they be considered and made of record in this application. Also attached is a completed PTO-1449 form.

Furthermore, Applicant believes that no fee is due. The attached references were cited in the Japanese Office Action (a copy attached) for a counterpart application mailed on February 18, 2003. I hereby certify that each item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement. Accordingly, per 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(c), Applicant believes that no fee is due even if the first Office Action has been mailed.

Accordingly, **no fee is believed to be required**. However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge payment of the Petition fee Under 37

CFR § 1.17(p) *if required* and any other fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836.

Japanese Patent Application Publication 62-294918 discloses a combination weighing apparatus that performs combination weighing with single item to be weighed. The combination weighing apparatus has a plurality of weighing hoppers 8-n, with a weighing instrument 10-n being attached to each of the weighing hoppers 8-n. There is no disclosure or suggestion that the microcomputer 26 stores the hoppers 8-n dividing them into first and second groups.

Japanese Patent Application Publication 63-206619 discloses a combination weighing apparatus that isolates a predetermined weight/amount of single item by combination weighing. In this combination weighing, weight data is stored in weight memory  $W_{11} - W_{n1}$  and  $W_{21} - W_{n1}$ . Each of four units  $U_1-U_4$  has weigh memory; each of blocks  $B_1-B_2$  is formed by two units. Combination weighing is performed at each block. Error data from the block  $B_1$  is sent to the block  $B_2$ , such that the block  $B_2$  performs combination weighing taking into account the error data. This way, weighed items from the block  $B_2$  are combined with the items from the block  $B_1$ .

Japanese Patent Application Publication 5-079890 discloses a combination weighing apparatus that weighs two different items  $W_1$  and  $W_2$ . In this combination weighing, items  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are inserted into hoppers 2a and 2b, and the controller 20 selects weighing hoppers 7 from which items are to be discharged. This way, a predetermined weight of mixture of the items  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  is obtained.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: May/7/03

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**Complete if Known**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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Application Number	10/042,145
Filing Date	January 11, 2002
First Named Inventor	Michihiko YONETSU
Group Art Unit	2841
Examiner Name	Randy W. Gibson
Attorney Docket Number	IS-US000799

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**Examiner  
Signature**

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.